

# TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NAMED

"TA" HAS A BIRTHDAY

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP

PLANS FOR EL PASO CONVENTION

SEMINAR SUBJECT NAMED

**MAY**  
**1952**



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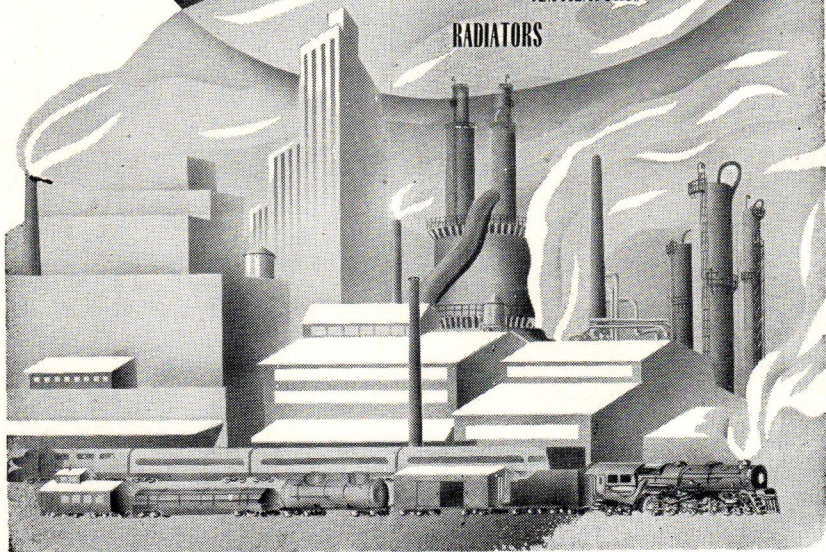
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## THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOLUME 3

MAY, 1952

NUMBER 1

### Official Publication of THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Texas Regional District Organization of  
The American Institute of Architects

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 28-31**—Spring examinations, Board of Architectural Examiners, Austin, Texas.

**June 24-27**—84th Annual Convention of the AIA, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City.

**October 29-31**—13th Annual Convention of the Texas Society of Architects, headquarters to be set, El Paso.



# THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP — AND THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

Americans are realizing, in this year of crisis, that it is their government, and that many of its faults are nothing more than their failure to act as citizens.

The result is a great resurgence of interest in the overall conduct of government, in the qualifications of candidates, in the presidential primaries in states which hold them, and in the precinct, county, and state conventions which are basic to political action in Texas.

## **Mass Meeting In Dallas**

This new interest in citizenship is not confined to any one city, or even to one section of Texas. It is reaching down into every community and spurring voters in every walk of life into direct action. In Dallas, a mass meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters was the means of interesting thousands of citizens in the political processes. Speakers explained the machinery and conduct of the precinct conventions. Others demonstrated the actual operation of a voting machine. They were teaching practical democracy to hundreds of women and first-time voters in the audience, but there were also great numbers of men who had not attended precinct conventions for many years, often neglecting as well to vote.

## **Engineers Learn Politics**

In Houston, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers are among the many groups bestirring themselves to political knowledge and action. A recent meeting of the San Jacinto Chapter featured the appearance of a prominent Democrat and an equally well-known Republican, who outlined party stands on vital matters and urged full participation in politics as a basic duty of the citizen. A Chapter committee included an outline of precinct convention procedure, ably presented and explained.

These are but isolated examples. The list could be added to in hundreds of instances across the state, reflecting a strong, nationwide concern over the individual's responsibility for the proper conduct of governmental affairs.

Many TSA members are undoubtedly participating in this worthwhile resurgence of citizenship on an individual basis, or as members of other organizations. A Society committee has begun plans for interviewing candidates for the State legislature, as detailed elsewhere in this issue. But actually, the TSA should be prominently in the very forefront of the battle, for many and obvious reasons.

## **Every Action Affected**

In an age when government affects everyone most directly, the architect's every action is circumscribed by governmental policy, edict, regulation, or influence. Think back upon a typical day this week, and realize how much of your work and planning is controlled to some degree—usually to an extreme degree—by some official or bureau of our local, state, or federal governments.

At every turn from availability of work through final payment for architectural services rendered—in contract awarding, setting fees, allocating materials, determining and administering building codes and regulations—in any number of areas vitally affecting you in every way, the architect must deal with appointed or elected officials. It is obvious that for personal reasons and for the best interests of the profession, TSA members must institute and continue a vigorous program of full participation, as citizens, in political matters.

This has been strongly urged by various Society members and officials, and both by our public relations counselors,

(Continued on Page 16)



# "TA" HAS A BIRTHDAY

The TEXAS ARCHITECT is a year old. How much has been accomplished by TSA's new publication in its first year?

Is the magazine reaching its objectives? Is it of service to its readers? Is it doing a job for its advertisers?

An objective study of TA's first 12 issues, plus the results of a questionnaire distributed to TSA readers, indicates that in one year the publication has accomplished much.

## **Total Circulation of 8500**

It has helped to knit the Society and its membership closer together, while telling an additional 7900 specially-selected readers about architecture in general and the TSA specifically. Within a relatively short period, the magazine has established itself in the highly competitive field of seeking to impart information and correct ideas.

Advertisers must seek out and use only successful publications which tell their story to an audience of readers. They are therefore, of necessity, quite objective in placing advertisements. The increasing amount of paid advertising within the TA, which allows for larger issues and a greater amount of editorial space, is an objective measure of success.

## **First Tabulation Results**

Questionnaires on the TA sent with the April issue are still being mailed back by TSA members, but enough have now been tabulated to reveal the following:

The membership is almost unanimously satisfied with the magazine, particularly for a "one-year-old". There is particular agreement that the present format is highly satisfactory.

There are some justified criticisms on running too much of the text of long speeches or articles, a practice which will be curtailed by condensing such material and presenting it in abbreviated form.

Many members vote for a stronger

editorial policy. This is being adopted immediately, and we believe that a change can be noted even in the current issue.

Most members wish particularly to have more news of chapters and more news of the profession in Texas and more news about individual members. We heartily agree, but want to emphasize that we are handicapped in this respect because some chapters and virtually all members fail to send in material for such news. Your cooperation is urgently requested.

## **News Letter Approved**

A news letter to members has been voted for by many, and this is being included henceforth with each issue mailed to TSA members.

Another oft-repeated request is for more technical information. We are searching constantly for suitable material of this nature, and request that readers aid by bringing anything of this nature not normally found in other architectural magazines to our attention.

## **Distribution List Changes**

TSA members are also well content with the present list of 7400 readers to whom the TA is distributed free. Several questionnaires name other groups to which the magazine might profitably be sent, including members of the Producers' Council in Texas, church field secretaries, and additional sources of government contracts.

The editorial board asks that every TSA member who has not done so re-member to mail in the questionnaire on the TA mailed with the April issue at once. This is your magazine. We want it to do the best job possible for you. We are not going to please every one in the Society, but from your comments and reactions we can do an ever better job.

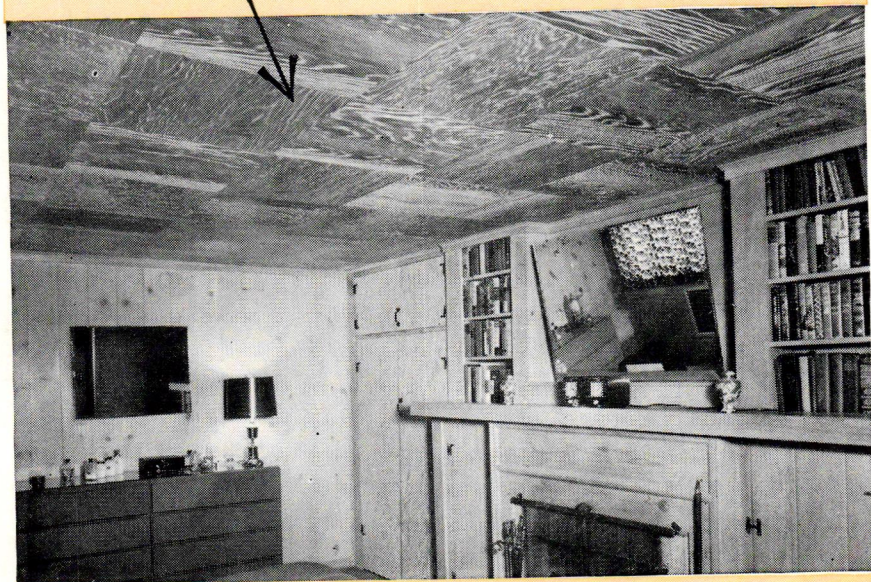




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# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NAMED BY BOARD

The board of directors of TSA has authorized and named members to a five-man executive committee to transact urgent business between quarterly board sessions. Members of the committee, named at the March 29 Board session in Austin, are Herbert Tatum, president; Albert Golemon, vice-president; Jack Corgan, secretary-treasurer; Edward Wilson, regional director, AIA; and Arthur Fehr, director, Central Texas Chapter.

Among the first matters referred to the committee, which is modeled upon a similar AIA body, were: uniform architect's sign; publishing a TSA brochure on "How To Select An Architect" for distribution to various public bodies; uniform standard for documents to be filed with the School Plant Study Committee; TSA public building commendation for the TEXAS ARCHITECT; and the selection of convention committees on transportation and attendance.

## Budget Approved

A corrected budget, amended by changing the amount of the Featherlite Competition fund from \$2,000 to \$2,500, was approved and adopted at the Austin meeting.

Albert Golemon, chairman of the Fees Committee, reported on the details of his conference with the U. S. Division Engineer, Colonel Louis W. Prentiss, at Dallas. Mr. Golemon has found that U. S. Engineers' policy regarding architectural-engineering contracts, as set forth in a letter sent to him, varies with actual procedures followed by district offices. Copies of the policy letter are available from Mr. Golemon. The Fees Committee chairman also reported that he has written to state universities and other educational institutions to determine fee schedules, finding that these fees range generally from 6% to a high of 8% at

Yale University, except for a 5% fee at Texas A. & M. College. An effort will be made to raise the Texas A. & M. schedule to 6%, Mr. Golemon said.

Because of difficulties arising from the fact that the fiscal year for some TSA chapters does not coincide with the TSA fiscal year, President Tatum introduced a resolution urging that such chapters be urged to amend their by-laws to correspond to the TSA fiscal year of January 1-December 31. The resolution, which was adopted as read, also asks that TSA chapters elect officers and directors and organize their administrative bodies, including committee chairmen, sufficiently in advance of January 1 to allow TSA officers and directors better to "plan, arrange and administer the affairs of the TSA in the interest of the chapters".

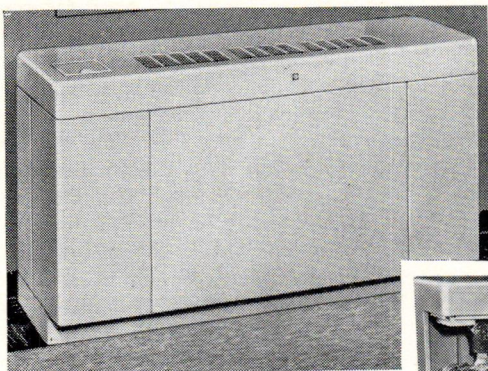
## Capitol Plan Report

Raymond Phelps, chairman of the Legislative Committee, stated that efforts will be made to prevent a fee schedule from being attached to the appropriations bill in the next legislature. After a discussion by Karl Kamrath, chairman of the Capitol Plan Committee, the matter of preparing and presenting a bill establishing a Capitol Plan Commission was referred to Mr. Phelps' committee and to Carl Hardin, Jr., legal counsel.

Mr. Hardin, Jr. urged TSA members to contact candidates for the state legislature in their own districts and obtain their support for architect-supported legislation. He emphasized the importance of legislative contact work at home during the off years when the state body is not in session. The legal counsel also recommended that serious thought be given to possible incorporation of both the TSA and the TEXAS ARCHITECT.

(Continued on Page 20)

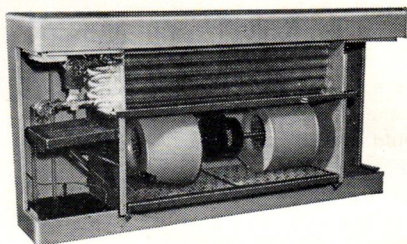
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## **Committee Recommends Policy On Scholarships And Student Competition**

The Education Committee has issued general policy recommendations on competitions, scholarships and similar matters, following a meeting with representatives of the Producers' Council chapters in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio who proposed to provide approximately \$700 annually for distribution to architectural students or to architectural schools in Texas.

The Producers' Council offer follows earlier assurance from the Texas Quarries that a fund of \$750 will be available in 1952 for the same purpose.

The Education Committee has recommended the following to the board of directors for consideration: (1) The annual TSA Competition should "by no means ever be abandoned" (2) Awards for excellence in architectural scholarship should be established if at all possible (3) If possible, the board should consider establishing a foundation through which the architectural profession, building industry, and other interested groups could help worthy students. (4) Any such contributions should be appropriately publicized.

The committee report was made by Donald S. Nelson, Chairman.

## **"Structural Resources" Selected As Subject For El Paso Seminar**

The Committee for Seminar Subject, under the chairmanship of Marvin Eickenroht, has recommended the topic "Structural Resources for Architectural Design" as the theme for seminar discussions at the TSA convention at El Paso October 29-31. This is the same subject being used by the national AIA convention at seminar sessions in New York City, June 24-27.

The recommended topic was approved

by the board, with "slight variations by the Seminar Committee within the scope of the subject."

## **AIA Annual Convention Will Allow Maximum Time Free In New York City**

Registration blanks for the 84th annual convention of the AIA, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City from June 23-27 inclusive, are being received by TSA members.

Complete programs for the New York convention show that business and professional meetings are being arranged as far as possible in the mornings, to leave afternoons and evenings free for entertainment, exhibits, excursion trips, and small group meetings.

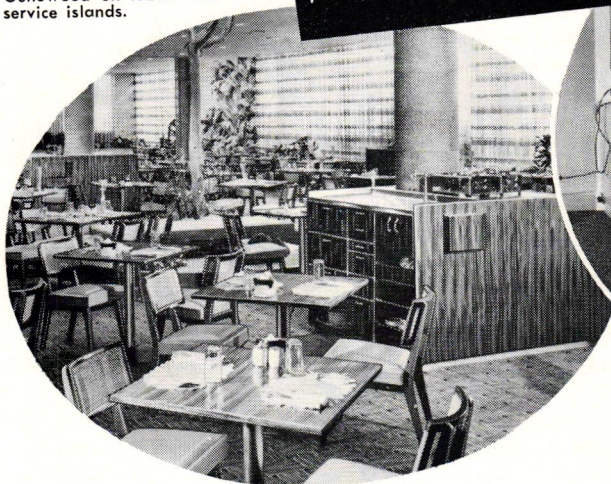
Theme of the convention is "Improving Man's Environment". This will be the subject of the keynote address at a June 24 luncheon at the Waldorf. Other highlights of the convention being announced by Arthur C. Holden, chairman, include the President's Reception and a cocktail party at The Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum overlooking the Hudson River near the George Washington Bridge; a June 26 luncheon address by an outstanding industrialist; the annual banquet, with conferral of Fellowships and award of the AIA Gold Medal to Auguste Perret, speaker of the evening; a special performance of the Broadway musical hit "The King And I" with the entire theatre bought out for delegates and their families; and numerous other special attractions.

## **Nationally Known Architects' Work On Exhibit At Houston Contemporary Museum**

The Contemporary Arts Museum at 702 Dallas in Houston will continue its special exhibition "New Directions: Domestic Architecture" through May 11. The exhibit opened April 20.

Lotus Tea Room, Bullock's Westwood. Designed by Welton Becket. Parkwood Genuwood on tables and service islands.

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## Plans Shaping Up For El Paso Convention Next October 29-31

The El Paso Chapter is working well in advance on plans for the TSA convention, first ever held in the border city, next October 29-31. The entire Chapter is concentrating on a program to assure maximum attendance, Edwin Carroll reported to the board meeting in Austin.

Mr. Carroll told of extensive work within the Chapter and of cooperation with other TSA Chapters and the officers and directors of TSA to plan business sessions, speakers, exhibits and an extensive program of entertainment, all of unusual appeal.

### Hotel Space Secured

Hotel space has already been secured, and preliminary reports on the program are now in the planning stage. Among decisions on the convention already approved by directors are the following: No commercial space will be sold by the TSA at the convention, but representatives of building and material firms are expected to attend the convention and to have displays in their rooms if they desire. Members of the Producers' Council will register and can attend all functions. Seminar guests will be provided with tickets to the President's Dinner at TSA's expense.

### School Sub-Committee Makes Recommendations On Featherlite Awards

The School Sub-Committee of the Education Committee has recommended that the 1952 Featherlite Competition be a five-week problem to be given any time between February 1 and prior to the El Paso convention of October 29-31.

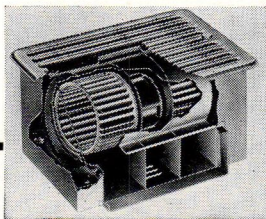
The competition would be open to students graduating in the year 1952-53 in the five architectural schools of Texas, with \$400 to be allocated to each school

for distribution at the school's discretion. A jury of TSA members is to make a \$500 grand prize award at the El Paso convention.

The Sub-Committee has also made the following suggestion: that each school make three monetary prizes totaling \$400 plus two honorable mentions, thus having five drawings each to send to El Paso for final judgment, if the judges request that this many be sent.

### Dinner For High Schoolers Interested In Architecture Held April 18 In Dallas

The Dallas Chapter, TSA, recently co-operated with the Dallas Community Guidance Service and eight engineering organizations in having Dallas high school boys interested in architecture or engineering as guests at a dinner meeting at the Baker Hotel, April 18.



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# Houston Awards Presented

Honor awards of the Houston Chapter, TSA-AIA, announced last December, were made April 9 at a reception in the Houston Country Club as a part of the chapter's observance of Texas Architects Week.

Stayton Nunn, Chapter president, was master of ceremonies as medals of honor and honorable mention certificates were given in four classifications—residential, institutional, schools, and commercial—for buildings completed in 1950. A total of eight buildings were cited by a jury of awards.

The presentations were made both to owners and to architects in recognition of the fact that it takes a good owner and a good architect working together to produce a good building.

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## Board Of Examiners Announces Spring Tests May 28-31 At Austin

The Texas Board of Architectural Examiners has announced that Spring, 1952 examinations for registration to practice architecture in the state of Texas will be held May 28, 29, 30, and 31 at the School of Architecture, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

The announcement of the examinations was made by Bartlett Cocke, TSA-AIA, secretary-treasurer of the Board of Examiners. Other Board members are William C. Baxter, Weslaco, chairman; E. W. Carroll, El Paso, vice-chairman; George L. Dahl, Dallas; Harold E. Jessen, Austin; and Fred J. MacKie, Jr., Houston.

Application to take the examination can be made through Mr. Cocke, 3501 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas.

## Committee of Judges

Awards made by a committee of judges headed by Thompson McCleary of Houston included the following:

Larger residential classification — Home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo V. Neuhaus Jr., medal of honor for architectural merit, Cowell and Neuhaus, architects; former residence of Mrs. Ann Bart, honorable mention, 37 Still Forest, Hermon Lloyd and W. B. Morgan, architects; residence of Dr. Burton McCollum, honorable mention, 950 Kirby Drive, MacKie and Kamrath, architects.

Smaller residential classification—Residence of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Smart, honorable mention for architectural merit, 318 Pine Shadows Drive, George H. Smart, architect.

## Rice Stadium Cited

Institutional classification—Rice Stadium, medal of honor, Hermon Lloyd and W. B. Morgan and Milton McGinty, architects, and Rice Institute, owner; Phillis Wheatley Senior High School, honorable mention, 4900 Market Street, MacKie and Kamrath, architects, Houston Independent School District, owner; Mamie Sue Bastain Elementary School, honorable mention, 7350 Calhoun Road, Wilson, Morris and Crain, architects, Houston Independent School District, owner. Stayton Nunn was co-ordinating architect on both of the school projects.

Commercial classification — Garden Oaks Realty Company building, 3205 North Shepherd Drive, honorable mention for architectural merit, Wilson, Morris and Crain, architects.

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**TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK** — On the opposite page are some of the results from planned publicity for Texas Architects' Week, taken from selected newspapers over the state and other sources including the AIA newsletter MEMO.



# Early Architect Was Jefferson

TEXAS

ARCHITECTS'

WEEK

ARCHITECTS AND CITIZENS of the Lone Star State celebrating Texas Architects' Week from 7-13 April will also pay honor to America's President-architect, Thomas Jefferson, the Sage of Monticello who made a lasting name for himself in this profession.

Jefferson carefully preserved notes, sketches, and drawings, together with his home, Monticello, the Capitol Building of Virginia, and the design of the original buildings at the University of Virginia are virtually national monuments to Americans who remember and revere the man who shaped the nation. To the architect, they reveal the basic principles of design which turned to a study of ancient Roman structures in his desire to develop a native American architecture which would be new, inspiring, and monumental—and completely apart from the contemporary buildings he had seen in Europe.

EVEN WHILE HE PLANNED Monticello, Jefferson the architect drew and sketched and wrote of this new architecture in which America would take up the pure classic forms where the ancients had left off. For public buildings, Jefferson, the president, advocated strict classicism, but some of his best planning, including of classic and modern ideas of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to be appropriate.

Jefferson's design for the library at the University of Virginia is therefore directly related to the Pantheon, the great relic of Roman antiquity, while his blending of classical forms and modern ideas is typified in his own home at Monticello, built under the influence of the Venetian architect Andrea Palladio, whose writings from the 16th century had first interested the president-architect in antiquity.

Although greatly interested in the Greeks as well, Thomas Jefferson turned strongly to the Roman in developing many of his basic architectural ideas. A trip to Southern France during which he saw the remains of the Maison Carree, one of the great monuments of antique Roman architecture, influenced him tremendously. The present-day resident of Richmond, Virginia, or the visitor to that Southern city, can see a close model of the ancient Maison Carree in the state capitol of Virginia, which Jefferson designed.

THE IDEA of Thomas Jefferson sitting on his porch at Monticello, one of his best-known architectural ideas, looking through a spyglass at the buildings of the University of Virginia which he also designed, has come down to us almost as a folk tradition. During Texas Architects' Week, the members of Jefferson's profession in our own state today invite you to study with them the life and works of the Sage of Monticello, for a fresh insight into architecture and an approach to the problems of 1862.

## TEXAS ARCHITECTS WEEK PROCLAIMED

Two Houston officials in the Texas Society of Architects, Fred MacKie, left, and David Baer, right, look on as Gov. Allan Shivers presents a proclamation, designating April 7 to 13 as Texas Architects Week, to Herbert M. Tatum of Dallas, TASA president. Varied programs and exhibits are planned to mark the observance of the week, which ends on the 29th birthday of Thomas Jefferson, architect-president.

## Architects Plan For Special Week

Texas Architects Week will be celebrated April 7-13 in the nine Texas cities with chapters of the American Institute of Architects: Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Amarillo, Austin and McAllen, which includes the Rio Grande Valley area. More than 600 registered architects in the state, headed by the Texas Society of Architects President, Herbert M. Tatum of Dallas, plan to commemorate the week with special exhibitions, programs, dinners and other activities.

## Architects Week

Next Sunday is the 29th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, the many-sided genius who appeared to have taken more pride in his authorship of the Declaration of Independence and in designing the original buildings of the University of Virginia than in having been President.

Americans should observe this date, April 13, more generally than they do. At least one group is starting this year to do so. The architects of Texas have chosen the birthdate of the architect-president to conclude Texas Architects Week, which they are observing this year for the first time.

Houstonians in particular might well give some thought this week to the contributions of the architect to our civilization and our daily living. Like the monuments of Sir Christopher Wren, we see his handiwork all about us.

Houston, fourteenth in population among the nation's cities, ranks fourth in some years in volume of construction, fifth in others. The great downtown buildings, the suburban shopping centers, the industrial plants, the hospitals, the churches, and the homes, all are conceived first on the architect's drawing board and in all cases except homes the erection is superintended by the architect.

The state and nation has literally hundreds of "skyscrapers." Texas Architects Week should be of the more significant.

## Architects Will Mark Birthday Of Jefferson

Houston architects and the members of eight other chapters of the American Institute of Architects throughout the state will observe the 29th birthday of Thomas Jefferson, one-time President of the United States and an architect, during the week of April 7-13, the headquarters of the Texas Society of Architects announced Saturday.

The observance will take the form of exhibitions and programs. Jefferson, it was pointed out, designed Monticello and the University of Virginia. The Texas Society of Architects includes a membership of about 600.

## Texas Architects Week Scheduled For April 7-13

Texas architects week will be observed April 7-13 by the nine chapters of the American Institute of Architects.

The observance will coincide with the 29th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson on April 13. Jefferson was an architect by profession. John W. Floore, chairman of the public relations committee of the Fort Worth chapter, said no public observance of the week will be held here this year. Beginning next year, the Fort Worth architects plan to make their annual craftsmanship award during Architects' Week. The AIA has chapters in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Amarillo, Austin and McAllen.

## Texas Architects' Week Opens April 7

Texas Architects' Week, believed the first event of its kind in the state, will be celebrated April 7-13 in the nine Texas cities with chapters of the American Institute of Architects.

The cities are Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Amarillo, Austin and McAllen, which includes the Rio Grande Valley.

More than 600 registered architects in the state, headed by Texas Society of Architects President

Herbert M. Tatum of Dallas, plan to commemorate the week with special exhibitions, programs, dinners and other activities. Tatum and other society officials were invited by Gov. Allan Shivers to proclaim Texas Architects' Week, calling attention to the achievements of the architectural profession in the state.

## Architects' Week Set In Texas

Gov. Allan Shivers of Texas has proclaimed the week April 7-13 as "Texas Architects' Week."

El Paso Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is planning several activities in observance of the week, according to James E. Monroe, Jr., of the public relations and information committees of the local chapter.

The general purpose of Texas Architects' Week will be to explain these architectural functions to the public by detailing just what the architect does and the influence and value of his work," Monroe said.

The week coincides with the 29th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, our architect-President, whose influence on the profession remains through his home, Monticello, the original building of the University of

Virginia, and other structures, designs and writings."

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER  
PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Mr David S. Baer, Ruler  
The Texas Architect  
112 West Street  
Houston 5, Texas

Dear Mr Baer:

Please arrange the transfer of the membership of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for the transfer of my fee payment. It is the establishment of "Texas Architects Week".

We all give glory for your continued assistance. With a lot of love for your continued assistance. With a lot of love for your continued assistance.

Respectfully yours,  
Herbert M. Tatum, President

MEMO

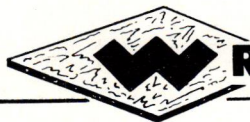
Texas Architects' Week: Our last and one of the Texas Society of Architects. The first time any state has formally recognized and proclaimed the first of its kind in the state. The first time any state has formally recognized and proclaimed the first of its kind in the state. The first time any state has formally recognized and proclaimed the first of its kind in the state.

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## Turn Down Zeb Rike Resignation;

Zeb Rike, Rio Grande Valley Chapter director who submitted his resignation because of illness, has an indefinite leave of absence, an interim replacement, and best wishes from the board instead.

When Mr. Rike's resignation was read at the Austin board meeting, with the explanation that illness would prevent him from fulfilling his duties, Reginald Roberts of San Antonio proposed that the resignation be turned down, and some-

one appointed to serve as an interim director in Mr. Rike's place. This was passed.

### A. H. Woolridge Named

Herman Cox then moved that A. H. Woolridge be named as interim appointee. This was also passed, as was a motion by Fred H. MacKie, Jr. that Mr. Rike be sent a letter not accepting his resignation, advising him of Mr. Woolridge's interim appointment, and wishing him a speedy recovery.

### "Rice Review" Exhibit Features Recent Work By Institute Students

The Rice Architecture Department exhibit in the Rice Review of April 4-5 was planned to give the public an overall picture of Rice's architectural curriculum. Examples of work shown were chosen primarily on the basis of public appeal.

The climax of the exhibit was a display of works from students in all classes. There were color studies and designs for an observation tower from the freshmen and examples of treatment of spatial relationships of buildings from the sophomores. The junior class work was highlighted by designs for a small college chapel and model residences.

The seniors contributed sketches for a skating rink, and entries for the 1952 Walsh Prize problem of a small chapel. This prize of \$150 went to Jim Christopher. Neal Lacey took second place.

A resort hotel, a fifth year thesis design, was outstanding in graduate work.

### \$1500 Fellowship

The Rice Architectural Society's annual traveling fellowship of \$1500 will be awarded later on in the year for a special design problem.

In the 1952 National Association of Home Builders Competition, Marlin Cruse

of the junior class took first prize for the small home and Benson Ford for the larger home. Models of these two designs were displayed recently in the 1952 Houston Home Show at the Coliseum.

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## Government Agencies Foes Of Modern Design, Kamrath Tells Realtors

The government lending agencies, particularly the F.H.A., have been a big handicap to homeowners attempting to build contemporary type house, Karl Kamrath, TSA-AIA of Houston told the Houston Real Estate Board at a luncheon meeting recently.

Mr. Kamrath said that the lending agencies and the F.H.A. are coming along "slowly, but oh, so slowly". He asserted that good modern designs are often penalized instead of being given recognition. And all the while, the Houston architect said, government agencies reverse their policies on skyscrapers, and want them to be most modern in design.

Mr. Kamrath told of a visit he made to Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home in Arizona in March. He praised Mr. Wright, terming him the father of "organic architecture" and the originator of the "long, low, spread-out house", the "broad, overhanging roof to provide shelter", great areas of glass, monolithic concrete, the "open front", bringing the "outdoors into the indoors", and many other aspects of modern design.

## New Decorative Plywood Described In Booklet

A new decorative plywood, "Sea Swirl", is now being produced by the Associated Plywood Mills, Inc. of Eugene,

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Sea Swirl is sold in standard 4' by 8' panels, 5/16" thick, and is available in other sizes on special order.

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## Fifty Million Dollars Worth

The Chicago Chapter's offer to help plan the city's new schools was applauded in a recent Sun-Times editorial, which urged the school superintendent to follow it through. Fifty million dollars are to be spent during the next four years and the newspaper thinks Chicago's children should get their money's worth instead of "the same old jail-like institutions of the past." The editorial points out that neighboring Winnetka pioneered a new type structure with the Crow Is-

land School, and since that time "hundreds of 'Crow Islands' have been built all over the world — but none in Chicago." The Sun-Times writer feels certain the superintendent "wants to make bold and imaginative plans and not simply 'dust off' old plans that have been on the shelves of his architectural department for years" and suggests that "fresh ideas ought to result if plans for some of the new schools were assigned to private architects, with the goal of stimulating competition for new designs."

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A MODERN BUILDING CODE

by M. L. Clement, Director, Southern Building Code Congress  
Birmingham, Alabama

Efficient operation is especially important in building construction which in all its branches is normally the second largest industry.

We are in a period of multiplying demands for labor and materials. Effective utilization of all available labor and materials is essential to maintain a strong and equalized construction industry, operating on a reasonable cost basis.

It is here the building code plays a vital part in the construction progress in the community.

Some municipalities feel that a building code is a bottleneck to construction interest or propriety. This is true if a building code is not maintained in step with new developments.

### Adopting A Code Not Enough

A good number of the cities in Texas only recently have adopted the Southern Standard Building Code. But the adopting of a code is not enough. These codes must be maintained abreast of research which means regular revisions. New developments are constantly on the move in construction techniques.

A building code should be designed to

admit the full exercise of individual initiative, the incorporation of improved designs and materials, equipment and method of assembly in building. The code should permit the use of any material and method which comply with recognized standards or requirements developed through acceptable industry processes and by qualified agencies.

### A Guide To Modern Construction

A municipal building code should assume leadership in the construction field. It should be the basic guide to modern construction, rather than an instrument so narrow in range that through lack of selectivity in types, materials and the like it becomes a burden on the community.

While Texas has assumed a certain measure of leadership in modernizing building codes, it is far from the result which should be attained with the cities of the state. It is a very simple process in the State of Texas to adopt amendments or revisions to codes, because the state legislature has provided for this enabling procedure.

## Responsibilities of Citizenship

(Continued from Page 2)

George Kirksey & Associates of Houston, and by our legal counsel, Carl Hardin, Jr. of Austin. Virtually the entire membership has been in accord on the need for a definitive stand, but the Society has not yet outlined and begun work on an actual program.

### Crucial May Conventions

As this edition of the TEXAS ARCHITECT appears, many of our members will be participating as individuals in their May 3 precinct conventions and May 6 county conventions. These meetings, never fully understood by the average voter, have been termed "neglected tools of democracy". They, together with the state conventions held separately for Democrats and Republicans on May 27, constitute the only opportunity that the individual voter in Texas has to express

his direct vote for a presidential candidate. In this year of decision, when the citizens of the U. S. have become vitally concerned over the conduct of their government and over the choice of those who are to lead them, it is finally becoming understood that the individual must participate in the May conventions if he wants to express himself directly. By the time the November elections roll around, the candidates have already been selected.

### Must Accept Responsibility

Many public-spirited organizations have prepared and distributed pamphlets explaining the mechanics of the precinct, county, and state conventions. Those TSA members who have not yet obtained information on these conventions should do so immediately, and then function as a citizen willing to accept responsibility and to work for better government.

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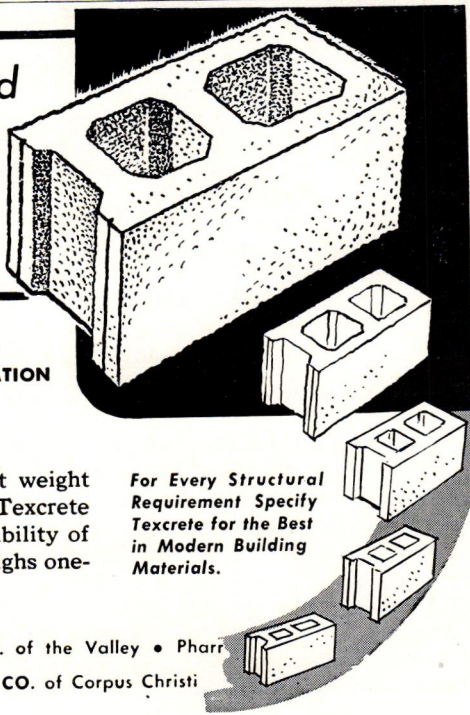
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## Steel Crisis May Offset Definite Trend Toward Normal Building Levels

Effect of the government's seizure of the steel industry April 8 has not been fully evaluated, but the move is expected to offset somewhat a definite trend toward normal building levels highlighted by DPA's go-ahead on commercial structures.

The DPA has now urged application for third and fourth quarter allotments of controlled materials, and the AIA newsletter anticipates the approval of "nearly all pending DPA applications for commercial and industrial types and the promise of substantial increases for schools and hospitals in the third and subsequent quarters", with the ban continued on buildings for amusement and recreation.

## News Of The Chapters

DALLAS—A panel session on mutual problems in building was held at the April meeting, with architects, builders, suppliers, and labor union officials participating. Arthur Thomas served as moderator, with Terrell Harper, Chapter president, presiding.

Among those participating were James Henderson, Dallas Building and Construction Trades Council; Horace Butler, president, Dallas Chapter, Producers' Council; G. Paul O'Rourke, Jr., president, Dallas County Construction Employers Association; and Ralph Bryan, hospital architect with the U. S. Public Health Service.

The Executive Board of the Dallas Chapter has decided to continue its meetings through the summer after naming four committees as follows: civil defense, chapter advertising and resources, bookkeeping, and craftsmanship award.

Approved membership applications include: transfers: L. C. Cavitt, Jr. and J. L. Downing; corporate, Jay Lowe Chapman of Sherman and Walter Cook, E. C. Davis, and F. D. Kean; associate: Albert Teipel; and junior associate: William E. Wise, James E. Wiley, Morris Lifshay, Joe Lynn Rich, and Horace E. Dryden, Jr.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY: The Chapter moved at its April meeting to follow up the matter of non-architects being listed in the classified advertising directory of the Rio Grande Valley telephone book. The secretary-treasurer, Warren C. Suter, is working with the Society's public relations counselors, George Kirksey & Associates, to ascertain whether or not action being taken by Southwestern Bell is being extended to companies at Weslaco, La Feria, and Raymondville which are operated by the Southwestern Associated Telephone Company.

HOUSTON—Medals - certificates announced last December by jury awards.

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## Architects Should Inform Home Economics Students About Their Profession

Mrs. Dorothy Weddle, teacher of vocational homemaking at Amherst (Texas) High School, believes that architects are missing a real opportunity by not making information on their profession available to students of home economics. A condensation of an article prepared by Mrs. Weddle on this subject follows:

### Architect Is Keystone

The architect is the keystone in the movement toward a better housed America. It is of primary importance that the architect inform the public of his proper function in the achievement of this goal. How then can the public best be contacted and informed?

One means should certainly be through the women of America.

### Instructors Are Powerful Force

Courses in home economics or homemaking form many of the concepts which

American women have concerning home planning and building. Home economics instructors who realize the importance of the architectural functions can therefore be a powerful force in shaping the architectural ideas of America's future homemakers and women citizens of tomorrow.

The home economics teachers of the nation have long had available facts, figures, illustrative material (even free refrigerators supplied by manufacturers) to prove to students the value of, and proper use of, refrigeration. They have not had even so much as a leaflet describing the ways in which an architect can save time, money, and disappointments worth far more than his fee.

Here's hoping that the AIA will see fit to remedy this situation, and thereby add to its long list of worthy accomplishments.

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## Executive Committee

(Continued from Page 5)

### Other Motions Passed

Other motions passed at the March 29 board meeting, and not otherwise reported, included: approval of minutes of January 5 meeting; to request various AIA chapters to screen registered architects in their areas as possible AIA-TSA members; to make Texas Architects' Week an annual affair; to authorize the Insurance Committee, acting through its Houston members, to proceed with its present insurance consultant or to secure the services of another consultant; to activate a Professional Practice Committee; to adopt a letter-resolution to Governor Allan Shivers expressing appreciation for his cooperation in proclaiming Texas Architects' Week; to set up a separate corporation to receive and administer scholarship funds.

### Attendance List

Those present at the March 29 meeting, held from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Driskill Hotel in Austin, were Herbert Tatum, president; Albert Golemon, vice-president; Jack Corgan, secretary-treasurer; Herman G. Cox, Fort Worth Chapter; Edward L. Wilson, Fort Worth Chapter and regional director, AIA; Edwin Carroll, El Paso Chapter; A. B. Swank, Dallas Chapter; Raymond Phelps, past president and chairman, Legislative Committee; Carl Hardin, Jr., legal counsel; Reginald Roberts, West Texas Chapter; Marvin Eickenroht, chairman, Seminar Subject Committee; Arthur Fehr, Central Texas Chapter; O. H. Thorman, El Paso Chapter; David C. Baer, chairman, Public Relations and Information Committee; Karl Kamrath, chairman, Capitol Plan Committee; George Kirksey, public relations counsel; Lee Buttrill, chairman, School Plant Study Committee; and Fred MacKie, Jr., Houston Chapter.

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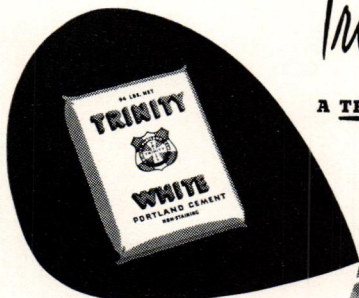
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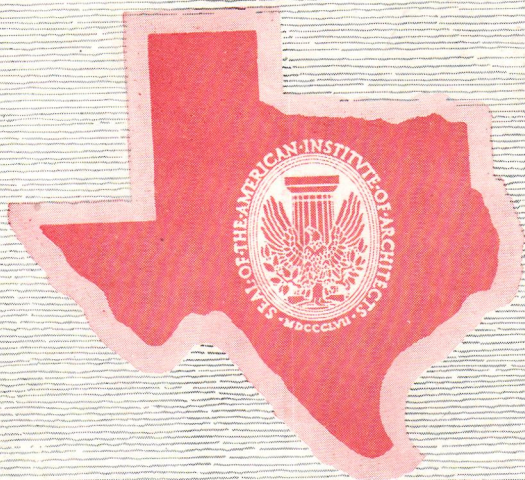
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